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Message Text

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15
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 FEA-02 INT-08

COME-00 SCI-06 DRC-01 /184 W
---------- 120784
R 110954Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC 1099
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 542

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EG, MO
SUBJ: SADAT'S EFFORTS RE OIL EMBARGO

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA FEBRUARY 8 QUESTION OF OIL EMBARGO CAME UP. HE SAID THAT LATE IN NOVEMBER, AT OUR REQUEST, MOROCCANS HAD ASKED SADAT TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO RELAX EMBARGO AGAINST US. SADAT HAD DECLARED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF SUCH A MOVE AND READY TO DO WHAT HE COULD. KING HAD SUBSEQUENTLY INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE, BENHIMA, SHOULD SEEK CONVINCE ARAB PRODUCERS NOT TO CARRY THROUGH WITH PLANNED, STAGED REDUCTIONS IN OIL PRODUCTION.

2. WHEN SADAT WAS LAST IN RABAT (JANUARY 22-23) MOROCCANS RAISED OIL EMBARGO QUESTION WITH HIM AGAIN. SADAT HAD IN FACT DONE HIS BEST AND HAD FULFILLED HIS COMMITMENT TO TRY TO GET EMBARGO
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LIFTED. IT HAD PROVEN DIFFICULT TASK TO MAKE ARAB

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STATES BUY THIS PROPOSITION, HOWEVER. SOME COMPREHENDED SADAT'S (AND HASSAN'S) APPROACH, BUT SOME RESISTED AND HAD NOT RESPONDED.

3. BENHIMA SAID KEY PROBLEM WAS SYRIA. IF SYRIA COULD BE SATISFIED THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TO WARRANT ITS GOING TO GENEVA, THEN THE BOYCOTT COULD BE REPEALED BY OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. SADAT, HOWEVER, UNHAPPY ABOUT PROGRESS MADE TO DATE IN SYRIA. BENHIMA FEELS EGYPTIANS CANNOT RETURN TO GENEVA WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT AND WHOLE SET OF ARRANGEMENTS IS THEREFORE UNDER ATTACK.

4. IN AN ASIDE HE COMMENTED ON REMOVAL OF HEIKAL FROM AL-AHJAM AND ATTRIBUTED THIS TO HEIKAL'S HAVING MOVED CLOSER IN RECENT MONTHS TO QADHAFI-MASMOUDI POSITION. HE DESCRIBED HEIKAL'S REMOVAL, AND ESPECIALLY REHABILITATION OF AMIN BROTHERS, AS A DELIBERATE GESTURE TOWARDS US.
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To: STATE
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